1	2	3	4
West Bengal	8,349	8,362	+ 13
A *A* N Islands	7,613	7,606	-7
Chandigarh	7	7	0
DAN Haveli	204	202	-2
Daman *&* Diu	3	3	0
Delhi	26	88	+62
Lakshadweep*	—	—	—
Pondicherry*	—	—	—
TOTAL :	633,397	637,293	+ 3.896

*Afa *discernible forest cover.*

Permission for modified Bt Cotton /seed

2826. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to allow farmers to cultivate genetically modified Bt Cotton seeds which reportedly had the potential to dramatically improve crops, while cutting down the use of pesticides;

(b) whether the approval has been granted for a limited period only; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the broad parameters/conditionalitics laid down, if any, for growing any specific GM Cotton crop; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor and the present status of consideration?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approval is granted for a period of three years so as to facilitate re-consideration of the matter.

(c) The broad parameters/conditionalitics laid down *inter-alia* included:

(i) Every field where Bt cotton is planted shall be fully surrounded by a belt of land called 'refuge' in which the same non-Bt cotton variety shall be sown. The size of the refuge belt should be such as to take at least five rows of non-Bt cotton or shall be 20% of total sown area whichever is more.

(ii) To facilitate this, each packet of seeds of the approved varieties should also contain a separate packet of the seeds of the same non-Bt cotton variety which is sufficient for planting in the refuge defined above.

(iii) Each packet should be appropriately labelled indicating the contents and the description of the Bt hybrid including the name of the transgencs, the GEAC approval reference, physical and genetic purity of the seeds. The packet should also contain detailed directions for use including sowing pattern, pest management, suitability of agro-climatic conditions etc., in vernacular language.

(iv) MAHYCO will enter into agreements with their dealers/ agents, that will specify the requirements from dealers/ agents to provide details about the sale of seeds, acreage cultivated, and State /Regions where Bt cotton is sown.

(v) MAHYCO will prepare annual reports by 31st March each year on the use of Bt cotton hybrid varieties by dealers, acreage, locality (State and Region) and submit the same in electronic form to GEAC, if asked for by the GEAC.

(d) does not arise.